

SUB-CABINET ON SENIOR VITAL LIVING
Meeting Summary Notes
Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Department Directors

Ahluwalia, Uma
Albornoz, Gabriel
Cantor, Natalie
Emanuele, Steve
Hamilton, Parker
Hartman, Ken
Lacefield, Patrick
Matthews, Catherine
Nelson, Rick
Rodriguez, Reemberto

Silverman, Steve
Vaughan-Prather, Judith
Voss, Chris

Staff

Anderson, Mary
Biggins, Carolyn
Davis, Betsy
Goodwin, Bill
Heyman, Austin
Huggins, Gloria

Kelleher, Matthew
Kenney, John
Korona, Luann
Saddi, Odile
Smith, Charles
Stroman, Dana
Vines, Ralph

Guests

Aviv, Pazit
Chuklina, Margarita
Binder, Elaine Kotell
Marks, Leslie
Kauffman, Charles
Marks, Leslie
Pruzan, Marcia
Welles, Judith
Woodall, Barbara

Uma convened the meeting. After introductions, Charles Smith gave a slide presentation summarizing Dr. Steven Golant speech from a seminar Charles attended. Also, Ken Hartman presented on slide presentation on Villages. (Copies of presentations attached.)

AGING IN PLACE DISCUSSION—Charles Smith

Dr. Golant's stressed that "aging in place" has been interpreted and implemented in a manner that is not always to the benefit of seniors or the community.

Comments that followed the presentations were:

- Many seniors do not want to leave their homes because they feel there are limited alternatives (i.e. nursing home placement). There needs to be education and information about the alternatives.
- There is not a one-size-fits-all solution for families or for seniors. There needs to be alternatives and options.
- Alternatives must be affordable (which includes the cost of maintaining the home) and provide needed services such as transportation. What seniors want in assisted living setting is everything they have in their own homes.
- Seniors who age in place in low-density areas will have limited transportation options because providing bus routes in low-density areas is expensive.
- Changing zoning laws over the next 10 years may provide the means to increase senior housing. Rewriting zoning laws can move toward integration.
- Seniors living in their homes should not be blamed for "pushing" young families into the suburbs.
- The term "aging in place" should broaden to "aging in the community," "aging in the neighborhood" or "aging in Montgomery County." This will change the dialogue that aging in place does not necessarily mean to age in your home but could mean moving within your community to a manageable home.
- Some seniors who live with immigrant children may age in place as a default setting with little options.

- It was reported that in recent years, there is a change and more seniors that are non-American are moving into senior housing.

VILLAGES DISCUSSION:

- Villages provide an alternative housing option—smaller cottage style homes. Village communities provide opportunities for volunteerism. Transportation is an example—neighbor-to-neighbor transportation options are available with 2 weeks notice.
- It was encouraged to look at Lincoln Park as an example. It is not an official village but there is a sense of community and volunteerism among residents. The administration on Aging grants are based on what exists and is working.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this discussion is to look at policies that we can turn into recommendations to Mr. Leggett. One policy is the need to ensure education is provided to seniors about alternative housing options. These options need to be affordable and may require zoning changes.

There is no policy in Montgomery County to support or create senior housing. There are only the NORC-Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities. We have policies regarding providing libraries, fire and police stations but no policy for senior housings.

One state conducted a study and found that 9 out of 10 seniors who move out of their private homes into smaller dwellings expressed that they were happier.

It was stressed that seniors who move from their private homes into apartments will need services and continuing care. When planning to assist seniors who age in place think beyond Leisure World (independent living for healthy active adults) to long term (seniors living in apartments needing assistance).

It was suggested that the senior housing practices in Florida and Arizona be studied to see if their policies are relevant to Montgomery County.

It was encouraged to consult with private housing developers such as Norman Dreyfus (developer of Leisure World and Victory House) to get their views on increasing senior housing. Also, Mr. Rollins, Director of Park and Planning and Nancy Floreen of the County Council should be talked to on this issue.

ACTIONS PLANS:

The Commission on Aging did a summer study on aging in place. The Commission will forward a copy of the report to the Housing Workgroup.

Housing Workgroup will discuss pros and cons, define what aging in place/community means and develop marketing. Mr. Rollins will be consulted.

UPDATES:

Due to limited time, all workgroup updates are to be sent to Gloria Huggins for the meeting summary.

Vital Living Committee navigates 50+ resource for Vital Aging Seniors. Also the committee has and “adopt a library” and has worked with librarians to establish 50+ corners.

The Communication and Outreach workgroup will sponsor a Media Brown Bag lunch on Wednesday, December 15 at the Rockville Memorial Library to discuss media issues.

The Office of Management and Budget will be coordinating a senior budget document. The document will be used to discuss amount impact.

Chris Voss, Director of the Office of Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security has joined the Senior Subcabinet

CountyStat will meet next week.

NEXT MEETING:

Next meeting is schedule Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at the Rockville Memorial Library, 1st Floor Conference room.

Adjournment